

**PATENT APPLICATION**

Docket: 2081CON2CIPCON (203-2400CON2CIPCON)

**BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT FOR SEALING VESSELS**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/113,745 filed on April 1, 2002 by Buysse et al. entitled "BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT FOR SEALING VESSELS", <sup>now Patent No. 6,726,686,</sup> which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/090,081 filed on March 1, 2002 by Buysse et al. entitled "BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT FOR SEALING VESSELS", <sup>now Patent No. 6,743,229,</sup> which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/502,933 filed on February 11, 2000 by Buysse et al. entitled "BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT FOR SEALING VESSELS", <sup>now Patent No. 6,352,536,</sup> which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/968,779 filed on November 12, 1997 by Buysse et al. entitled "BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT FOR SEALING VESSELS", <sup>now Patent No. 6,187,003</sup> the entire contents of all of these applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

**BACKGROUND**

*Field of the Invention*

This invention relates to an electrosurgical instrument for permanently closing vessels in a human or animal, and more particularly to a bipolar electrosurgical